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The Youth Advocate

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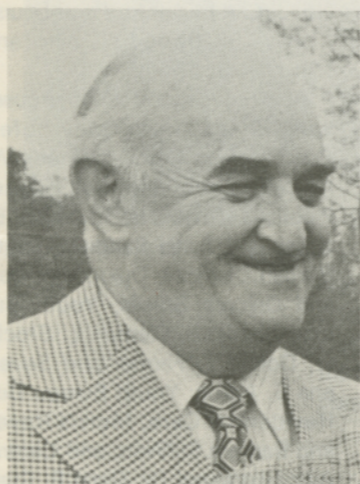
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SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES

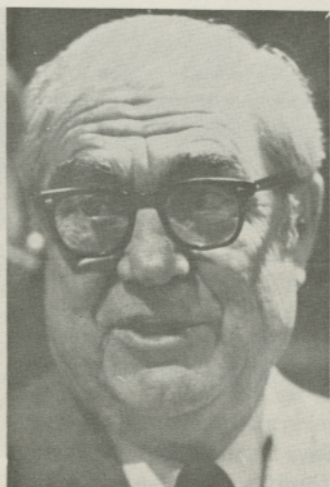
VOL. 11 NO. 2

1978

Shivers, Borders Retire, Mayrhofer Conine Are Named Top Employees



Shivers



Borders



Mayrhofer

Two long-time Department of Youth Services' administrators are among six agency employees who are retiring this fiscal year.

Jack Shivers, Deputy Director for Fiscal Affairs and a former director of the agency, and Edmund T. (Pete) Borders, Superintendent of Educational Resources, will retire as of July 1.

Others who have retired or will retire are Willow Lane School principal James F. Page; Ms. Leila S. Whittle, Birchwood Campus youth counselor; Ms. Frances F. Shuler, Willow Lane school teacher; and William R. Matthews, assistant farm manager.

Shivers, who is retiring with 40 years' service in state government, was director of the agency from 1966-67. He was named agency "Employee of the Year" in 1975.

A graduate of Furman University, Shivers served as teacher, coach and recreation director. He started the first organized Little League for Florence.

Shivers became superintendent of the John G. Richards School in 1954, and was responsible for inaugurating rehabilitative efforts in the school.

Borders is a native of LaFayette, Ga., and was a classmate of Shivers at Furman University. Borders has been elementary principal and athletic coach at Blacksville; math teacher and coach at Chester High School; Director of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Athletics for 24 years at Columbia High School. He was made Superintendent of Education at the state agency in 1968.

Page was principal of the Willow Lane School from August, 1976 to May of this year.

Ms. Whittle, an agency employee since 1971, has been in state service since 1955.

Ms. Shuler served as a classroom teacher at Willow Lane from July, 1970. She retired Feb. 23.

Matthews was assistant farm manager with the S.C. School for Boys in Florence from 1946-1977. He retired from the S.C. Department of Mental Retardation in Florence, as he did not transfer to Columbia when the Florence facility closed.

A Birchwood High School teacher and the coordinator of training for employees of the Birchwood Campus have been named female and male employees of the year for the Department of Youth Services.

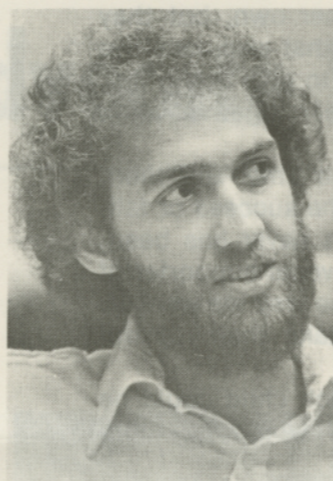
Ms. Connie Mayrhofer, Title I Reading Teacher and Stanley D. Conine, Therapist/Training Specialist at Birchwood were announced as recipients by State Director Grady A. Decell at the annual meeting June 14.

They were selected from 23 staff members who had been named as unit employees of the year.

"I am particularly pleased about the selections this year because they represent such diverse but necessary talents," said Decell. "Ms. Mayrhofer has shown the kind of warm, personal concern in her involvement both in and out of the classroom that is vital to the rehabilitation of our children. Conine is sincere, dedicated, caring; and it shows in the more than 100 persons from all four institutional campuses that he has trained. The Department of Youth Services is extremely fortunate to have these people as its representatives to the S.C. State Employees Association annual contest."

Among the reasons Mayrhofer was cited was her effort in creating teamwork between teachers and social workers; effectively teaching children with severe learning disabilities; in her work with the Council for Exceptional Children and in working effectively with the University of South Carolina in procuring reading and math programs.

She established the first open classroom characterized by humanistic in our school," said Gene U. Cantrell, Supervisor of Instruction. "She teaches non-readers, students most teachers find hard to accept. She motivates her students extremely well and gears her classroom instruction to sur-



Conine



Youth Bureau Chief Referral Source

COLUMBIA—The chief intake officer of one of South Carolina's largest Family Courts has said the Youth Bureau Division of the Department of Youth Services is one of his chief referral sources.

Continued Page 5 . . .

Director's Dialogue . .

by
Grady A. Decell



Our staff teaches that the child's behavior is his own responsibility—never mind the causes. If his behavior is wrong, then he, not his parents, his brothers and sisters or his friends, will suffer the consequences.

It is a mature approach. Many of the children assigned to us cannot handle it. Many never can. Most achieve goos success. And we've had many successful stories.

We have children who have been assigned to us who are day students in college and night residents here. I remember particularly a young girl who came to us years ago as a status offender—a child who by the grace of God had not been in a serious crime. She had many problems. Tima and patience were on our side. The girl ran, and we caught her. She ran and we caught her again. She ran again and again. Then one day she began to listen.

This girl has graduated from our high school here, completed nurses' training and is now a good mother with children of her own.

Her achievements were her own, but they were brought about by a staff that was sensitive to her needs, determined not to give up on her, and caring enough to mend her together when she broke apart.

Our staff does this all the time. But then, only we normally hear about the success or failures. Our alumni organization never has been, nor will it ever be, a loud and vocal supporter of our agency. And that's just the way we want it. We want these children to take their rightful roles and blend into society.

If that one miracle for each child could be accomplished, then our staff would be more than satisfied.

Last issue I discussed with you the strengths of the agency's Board of Directors. This month I would like to talk about the other side of the coin, the Agency staff.

People who work with children—especially emotionally or behaviorally disturbed children—must love their work, love children and most of all, be filled with patience. Deviant behavior is not changed overnight.

The first characteristic we look for in a staff member—since all our staff come in virtual daily contact with our students and clients—is that they like children. Abnormal behavior does not surprise us. Children who strike out or who are angry or destructive do not annoy us. We expect it and it gives us a toe-hold with which to deal with the child.

Top Employees, Continued . . .

vival skills. She consistently works long hours and her dedication to the students and the department is unquestioned."

Conine, a native of Valdosta, Ga., has a degree in Sociology from Georgie College and an M.Ed. in Counselor Education from the University of South Carolina. He joined the agency in 1971 as a part-time social worker for the newly-established Intensive Care Unit on Willow Lane campus. He was responsible for developing the program, for providing training for staff members and in providing social work services for children in the program.

He has since been involved in almost every phase of the ICU program: caseworker, social worker, and director of cottage life. When the Birchwood Campus opened, Conine was responsible for developing an on-going training program for the ICU staff.

Says his supervisor, Dr. Clinton E. Hendrix: "Those who have worked with Stan have found him

to be a warm, sincere, caring person and a most effective instructor. He has consistently worked to meld good counseling theory and technique with the daily realities of working with young people."

The individual unit employee selections were: Campus No. 1, Fred Shaw and Maxine King; Campus No. 2, George O. Wheeler and Sherry B. Wages; Campus No. 3, Carl B. Ashford and Louise Kinsey; Birchwood, Conine and Margaret B. Smith.

Also, Education section, Roosevelt Hampton and Mayrhofer; Buildings and Grounds, Frank W. Furtick and Cindy G. Gasque; Public Safety, Capt. Lonnie B. Gross and Tonja Sanders; Youth Bureau District I, Dexter Lambert and Delores Smalls; Youth Bureau District II, Clemon L. Stocker, Donna T. Farmer and Severena S. Aaron; Youth Bureau Dis-Residential Care, Morris Bayes and Barbara Sullivan; and Central Administration, Dr. Gene F. Starr and Martha S. Vansant.

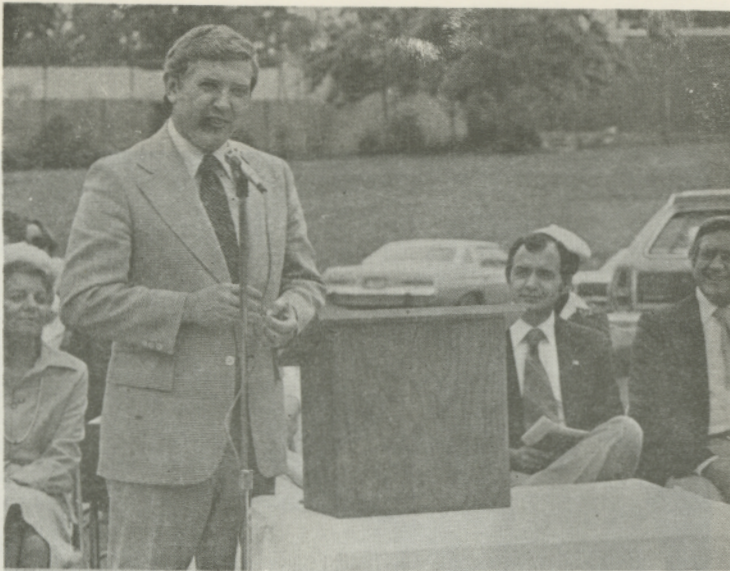
We love children. We do not, necessarily, like what they do. So we look at them as distinct individuals with a soul, personality, and character. We see their faults and their virtues. We know their promises and their failings.

When a child reacts abnormally—as most of ours do—then our attitude is not one of severe restraint, punishment and abuse. We restrict the child's activities so that he doesn't hurt himself or those about him. And, when he is calmed down—as he most assuredly will be, sooner or later—then we begin attacking the causes of his behavior.



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Mrs. Lucy T. Davis Chairman
Grady A. Decell Director
Edward B. Borden Editor



Rep. H. Parker Evatt, Richland County, speaks to students and staff at the Dedication of the new \$75,000 Dental Clinic. The ceremony came as part of the Agency's "Your State" program. Frank Furtick, chief of maintenance and Cecil Meetze, dairy supervisor, (right) proudly display plaques given by the Central Dairy Herd Improvement Association for the highest herd average (15,252 pounds) and greatest improvement in herd average (1,285 pounds) in 1977.



The Youth Advocate Scene



Rep. Robert R. Woods, left, Charleston, was guest speaker in April for the "Your State" program. Conversing with him prior to the meeting were board members Edward T. Pendarvis and Ray Kenner.



The Willow Lane basketball team was crowned this spring as champions in the YMCA Basketball League in their division. Coaches were (second row) Recreation Specialists Moses Hopkins and Richard Alford.

Beverly Smart, Continued . . .

"I've always wanted to be a social worker," she said. "And I've always wanted to work with teenagers." A speech by the Rev. Horace Youngblood, Supervisor of Chaplains for the Agency, convinced Smart to apply at the Department of Youth Services.

She worked first in the program at Willow Lane, then in the Behavior Modification Unit on the back edge of the old John G. Richards campus. She subsequently went to ICU at Willow Lane School, then back to Mod, gaining experience and supervisory responsibility with each transfer. She was promoted to her present position last July.

"We try to get each student to focus on what his thinking was at the time he got into trouble," she said. "We want to help him solve his specific problems. We want to get him to understand why he got involved and how he is going to react differently to the same situation on the street.

"What we're after," she continued, "is reality to the situation and reality to the behavior of that type which got him in trouble."

Important aspects of the student's rehabilitation, she said, "is how he sees himself and what the goals are of his present behavior. A lot are acting out against parents or neighbors who don't accept them. They can't say "no," They take drugs or alcohol to drown the pain."

The Birchwood program focuses on helping the student to discover strengths in himself, she said. "We teach communication skills. We conduct group therapy sessions and assertive training to teach him new ways of living with others. We want to pinpoint mistakes and show the student by direct modeling that there are other ways of doing things."

Chris spoke up. He said his mother didn't have funds to come see him. "We'll find the money, Chris," she said, "if you'll write the letter inviting her. Tell her some of the neat things you're doing. You know, like you haven't run away in a while."

They chatted for several minutes then Smart said, "I understand you draw very well."

"Sorta," Chris nodded.

"Draw me a pair of feet on that blackboard," she said. "This is the way I draw them." The artistic work was grotesque and amateurish. Smart giggled. "I'm not an artist at all."

Chris quickly sketched a pair of feet, heels together, that was amazingly lifelike. "I didn't do too well," he apologized.

"Perfect!" she said. "This is to go on the picture of the student handbook. You wouldn't mind drawing the cover for me, would you?"

"No . . . no, I guess not," he said slowly. It was apparent by the long smile he was well pleased.

"Tell you what I want you to do, Chris. Write a letter to your mother and put it in an envelope. You seal it. I don't want to read it, Okay? You bring it here this afternoon and I'll put a stamp on it. Just write your mother and tell her you love her. You'll be amazed at the response."

"I'll think about it," Chris said. He left the room with his head high and his shoulders back.

"They're all angry," Smart said. "Some show anger in different ways, such as being assaultive. All are angry but they don't know at what so they pick something to show their anger, such as their family, community or school. A lot of them will overcompensate by being a clown, for instance.

"What happens to them if we're successful? Well, they're pleasant, they can laugh, they can take some teasing and they're more trusting."

"By mid-afternoon, Chris sauntered by with a letter and a drawing for a friend. Smart beamed and showered him with well-deserved compliments. Chris smiled bashfully.

Later she said, "We get letters from kids who say they're doing fine. We're getting a lot more that say, "Hey, thanks for the help."

"Our whole purpose," she said, smiling as she remembered the incident with Chris, "is to give them reason to believe they're worthwhile human beings."



S.C. Department of Youth Services Director Gardy A. Decell congratulates the Agency's top boxer, Grady Lloyd. The inter-agency boxing program pitted student boxers from the Agency's three campuses against each other.



St. Luke's Center Director Leroy Blakely receives an award from the St. Luke's Advisory Council for outstanding service to the community. The presentation, with first black All-American quarterback Sandy Stevens looking on, was made at the Center's Annual Sports Awards banquet.

Beverly Smart — A Person Who Cares

COLUMBIA — Beverly Smart ushered the student into her office on the Birchwood Campus.

Youth Bureau, Continued . . .

"I don't know what we'd do without them," said Fred Auld, Jr., Chief Intake Officer of the Richland County Family Court. "We give them our toughest cases."

Auld said his case load would increase "15 to 18 percent — and that is a realistic figure" if the Youth Bureau were not in existence.

The Youth Bureaus — now established in 40 of the state's 46 counties — are charged with the responsibility of diverting troubled and behaviorally problem children from delinquency. They are the agency's arm in the community, designed to work with other agencies in devising programs to prevent children from committing acts.

The Youth Bureau program has recently come under fire in a study by the Office of Criminal Justice Programs, which said it was no more viable an alternative for keeping troubled children out of court than other social agencies.

The Department of Youth Services has challenged parts of the OCJP study and said it is an effective means to keeping children with behavior problems out of trouble.

Auld agreed with the concept and said, "The Youth Bureau has a definite place. Sure, we divert some children to Family Services and Mental Health, but who is coming to pick up a 14-year-old runaway from the county jail at 2 a.m. when her parents don't want her back?"

"The Youth Bureau doesn't put conditions on finding a foster home or placing a child in a group home. Some other agencies have very strict guidelines."

A typical child referred to the Youth Bureau, said Auld, is from an upper middle class family. There are other children. Both parents work to support the family's demand for material things. The child is under a lot of peer pressure to perform well.

"She identifies with losers, those kids who feel rejected. She experiments with drugs and comes home at 2 A.M. Her father, naturally, is agitated. She stands up to him. He lays down the law and maybe slaps her. That's where she goes out the window."

"Pretty soon she's forging checks. She runs away. Her parents can't do anything with her. When they come to me they're really desperate. They want help for her. They love her, but they can't keep her at home. We have her picked up and maybe placed temporarily in jail. That's where the Youth Bureau comes in."

Youth Bureau services, said Auld, include the group home, Shannondora Valley in Lexington County, where children such as that described can stay for short terms while undergoing rehabilitative treatment.

"We get a contract between the parent, the child and the court. It's an open end communication. They normally make it. And when they're on the road to doing so they're set free. They're returned back to their parents."

Auld said he and his partner, David Kneece, see an average of six cases a day, and of those that are referred, "I'd say better than 60 percent are to the Youth Bureau. We give them our toughest cases. I want the easier ones I can handle right here."

Treatment, said Auld, includes counseling, goal setting, and referral to other agencies in the community — such as mental health or family services — for special treatment.

"The Youth Bureau is one of our major diversionary agencies. Who else is going to come in and work with kids on a one-to-one basis? We divert children also into St. Luke's Center, one of our hotbeds for delinquency. You know, that's also run by the Youth Bureau, and they're doing a bangup job there."

"There're several 'best methods' for diversion from Family Court. One is to stay out of court completely. Another is the Youth Bureau."

"Sit down Chris," the Director of Social Services for Birchwood Campus said pleasantly. "I just wanted to talk to you and see how you were coming along."

Chris, a tall, 15-year-old youth with long hair the color of broomstraw, huddled in a chair. He rested his chin on the palm of his hands and stared down at the floor. Chris is a "runner."

He has escaped from the institution, part of the Department of Youth Services, on several occasions. He has little insight into the reasons for his running away — an illegal act full of personal danger. Agency staff members have determined he needs to know exactly what he is doing to himself; why he is doing it and how he can come to grips with his problems.

Smart knew why the boy ran: apparent lack of contact by his mother. Because he had not been on campus the appropriate number of days, he was not being allowed to go home at Easter. Chris resented the fact he would have to stay on campus while many of his friends were out on pass.

"Let's write your mother," she said. "Let's send her a real nice letter and get her to come down to see you."

The youth balked. "Ain't goin' to write her 'til she writes me."

"What kind of response is that?" Smart said. "Are we playing horseshoes? Why are you keeping score? Why don't you write her a little note? I'm sure she'd appreciate it."

She gently pulled the hair away from his face. "Chris, I'm not mussing your hair. I want you to lift your chin up. I want you to look at me."

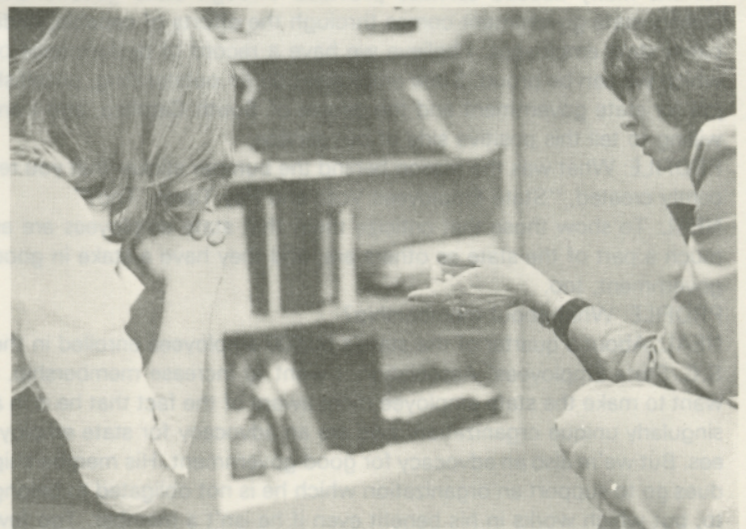
Slowly the boy raised his eyes. Smart broke out in a wide smile. The first small victory in the long-range war of reaching this child had been won.

Beverly Smart keeps her "hand in" one-to-one counseling with some of the most behaviorally disturbed students at the Department of Youth Services. Primarily, though, she supervises eight social workers.

She has worked her way through the ranks to become the supervisor of a social work staff that works with some 110 students, ranging in age from 12 to 17. They are either long-range commitments — having committed such violent crimes as murder, rape, armed robbery or arson — or they've had trouble adjusting to the open campus concept of John G. Richards and Willow Lane.

One of three children of the Rev. Lloyd Self, pastor of Augusta Heights Baptist Church in Greenville, Smart majored in English at the University of South Carolina. After teaching a year in public school in North Carolina, she returned to South Carolina to get her Master's Degree in counseling.

Continued Page 4 . . .



Beverly Smart, Director of Social Services for the Birchwood Campus of the S.C. Department of Youth Services, counsels a student.



Profile:

James P. Neal, Jr. Deputy Director For Professional Services

EDITOR'S NOTE: James P. Neal, Jr., was recently elected president of the S.C. State Employees Association. **PROFILE** asked his platform as head of the organization that represents the interests of 50,000 state employees.

PROFILE: What do you see as your role as president of the S.C. State Employees Association?

NEAL: It is a great honor and a great opportunity to be able to serve in the tradition of the founding servants of state government and those noble officers of S.C.S.E.A. who have served before me. It is a chance to bring together the high ideals and policies of leadership for the broad delivery of services from state government to the people. As a "new person," I pledge to bring a few fresh ideas into the organization and provide a dynamic leadership posture.

PROFILE: What do you hope to accomplish?

NEAL: I would hope to increase the level of total awareness of the role of state service. I want to heighten the level of recognition and respect of state employees. I am a strong believer in public education about state services. We want to assure the public state employees have credibility and respect they deserve.

PROFILE: State employees in the past have been criticized as lazy and greedy. Do you agree?

NEAL: (Emphatically). I do not! Where there is evidence of malfeasance, I would advocate removal from state service. The majority of state employees work hard and get very little credit. I will address myself to this issue in the near future in a news conference. Such things as the "Million Dollar State Employee" destroy public confidence in the excellent job that public servants are doing. The negative press of state employees has to be turned around with positive media exposure. The state employee is a "poor whipping boy" of far too many politicians and of the general public.

Let me assure you also as president of our State Employees Association, I will work toward convincing members of our General Assembly and others that state employees are the effective delivery system for the many needed services provided through state government. Quality state government comes through the efforts of capable, dedicated state employees. I believe we have a record of performance of which we can be proud. State employees do an outstanding, unselfish job for state government and the people of South Carolina, and I am willing to tell this positive side of our service.

PROFILE: What was the reason behind the bumper sticker that you recently created, "State Employees Vote and Pay Taxes, Too?"

NEAL: To show those that criticize them that state employees are as much a part of the state as others are, and they have a stake in good government, too.

PROFILE: What about membership?

NEAL: About a quarter of the state's 50,000 employees enrolled in the S.C. State Employees' Association. I want to increase membership. I want to make the state employee more aware of the fact that he is in a singularly unique organization. We are an advocacy for state employees. But we're also an advocacy for good government. His membership dues go to support an organization which he is not obligated to belong to, but which works in his benefit even if he isn't a member. Too few carry the burden for too many. Approximately 12,000 S.C.S.E.A. members actually carry the advocacy load for the rest.

Juvenile Arrest Rate Down

COLUMBIA — South Carolina's juvenile arrest rate is down almost 19 percent over last year, and the director of the S.C. Department of Youth Services is claiming his agency has credit for at least part of the decrease.

According to Uniform Crime Report figures released April 7 by the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED), 8,544 children under 17 were arrested in 1977, more than 2,000 less than the previous year. It was the second straight year in which arrest figures declined. In 1975, 13,268 children were arrested compared to 10,552 in 1976.

The decrease is due in part to the aggressive diversion programs operated by our Youth Bureau Division," said Decell. "We've eliminated more than 150 status offenders from the institutions and we've kept these kind of children from going back. The results of this program are just now becoming evident."

Decell said the arrest rate is less "because judges have confidence in us and in our ability to keep children out of the system. They have diverted them to us at the intake level. We're able to treat their behavior problems in foster or group homes and even in their own homes. We have established an enviable track record.

"Because of this," said Decell, "law enforcement officers will call our staffs to handle problems that would previously have gone to the courts. Confidence in the Youth Bureaus and in the Department of Youth Services has filtered through the entire juvenile justice system."

The latest South Carolina trend echoed what is happening on a national level. Some 1.6 million children were arrested in 1975 and 1.52 million in 1976, about 5 percent less. Figures for 1977 are not yet available.

Statewide, 947 children were arrested for status crimes (running away, truancy, etc.), compared to 1,382 in 1976 and 1,845 in 1975.

"Again, this shows our programs are being effective," said Decell. "Despite all the criticism, we've effected uniform procedures for the treatment of predelinquent children — especially those who've committed status offenses — in 40 of the state's 46 counties. These procedures are beginning to pay results.

"And while the national average of arrest rate reduction for status offenses is some 14 percent (260,648 in 1975 against 224,785 in 1976), South Carolina's average is more than double — 31.5 percent."

Not surprisingly, the state's more populous areas showed significant reductions in arrest rates. Florence, for example, showed a 45.2 percent reduction (227 arrested in 1976 compared to 129 arrested in 1977). Greenville was down 34.2 percent (1,201 in 1976 against 790 in 1977). Richland decreased 21.3 percent (2,035 opposed to 1,601) and Spartanburg was down 25.9 percent (853 against 632).

PROFILE: But what are some of the things you're advocating?

NEAL: We requested a 7 per cent cost-of-living increase plus \$300 for every state employee. The current pay bill as passed by the House calls for a 4 per cent across the board increase July 1 and another January 1.

PROFILE: What are some of the other goals?

NEAL: As a means to improve state employee salaries, we approve of a bill that would require the state to pay employees at least equal to the federal minimum wage. If the bill passes, the lowest state employee salary would be equal to the minimum wage of \$3.35. That would be nearly \$2,000 above the state's current minimum salary.

Additionally, we favor financial assistance to those state employees who are at the maximum salary for their grade and cannot receive merit increases. Other issues include cost-of-living adjustment and payment of health insurance for retired people; improvement in mileage and per diem programs; and improvement of retiree benefits.

PROFILE: You have your work cut out for you.

NEAL: Certainly. But then, any goal that is desirable is worth fighting for. As Alfred North Whitehead once said, "The art of progress is to preserve order amid change and to preserve change amid order."